

# Patterson Completes Fifty Years

J. Will Patterson, mechanic in the Plant Service Dept. at the Blanket Mill, completed a half-century of continuous service at the mills on January 1, 1953. He was honored at a luncheon at Meadow Greens country club Wednesday and was presented his 50-year diamond and gold service pin by Harold W. Whitcomb, assistant general manager.

At the luncheon, attended by members of general management and the supervision at the Blanket and Sheeting mills, M. P. Miller read a telegram from James L. Palmer, president of Marshall Field & Company congratulating Mr. Patterson on his outstanding record. Letters were read from Milton C. Mumford, general manager of the mills, and Mr. Whitcomb expressing the Company's appreciation of Mr. Patterson's loyalty and faithfulness.

S. G. Strader, master mechanic at the Blanket Mill spoke in praise of Mr. Patterson's fine attitude and his cooperative spirit and presented a gift on

behalf of Mr. Patterson's associates in the Plant Service Dept. J. H. Ripple, manager of the Blanket and Sheeting Mills and D. A. Purcell, superintendent of the Blanket Mill spoke in praise of Mr. Patterson, who responded stating that he "considered Marshall Field & Company a fine organization to work for and that they have always treated me well during my 50 years with them."

Mr. Patterson has established one of the longest records of continuous service in the history of the mills. The late E. D. Pitcher who retired in 1946 with 61½ years of continuous service had received the 50-year and 60-year service pins, but had worked 24 of his years in the Wholesale Division. Oscar F. Ferguson, now retired, received his 50-year pin last January as the first man to complete 50 years at the mills.

Mr. Patterson came to the Tri-Cities from his native Henry county, Virginia. He and his father, the late J. T. Patterson, went to work in the Nantucket Mill. Will Patterson has continuous service since January 1, 1903. He worked

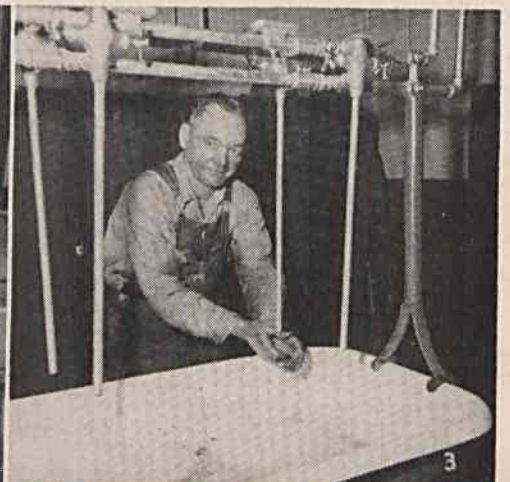
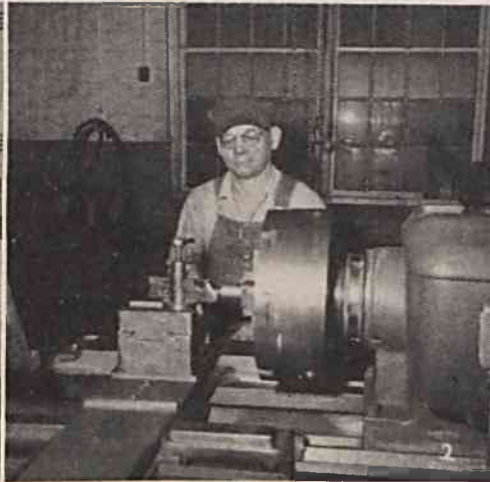
for almost 35 years in the Nantucket Shop and has worked at Draper mills since sheeting operations were consolidated in 1937.

He was a charter member of the Carolina Cooperative Council and of the Fieldcrest Mills 25-Year Club. He has established an outstanding record of a half-century of service during which time he has been an expert workman with regular attendance and a loyal, cooperative attitude.

He is married to the former Miss Hannah Vernon of Rockingham county who formerly worked as a weaver and smash hand at the old Lily Mill, fore-runner of the present Rayon Mill.

Mr. Patterson has a brother J. T. (Tommy) Patterson of the Finishing Mill who has over 38 years of continuous service.

Will Patterson has attended First Christian church for more than 50 years and has been a member of the official board for a long time. He is a member of the Junior Order and of Sioux Tribe No. 28, Imperial Order of Red Men. He owns his home on Pine street in Leaksville.



## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF 50-YEAR MAN WILL PATTERSON

(1) An early riser, he enjoys making own coffee; (2) On the job at Blanket Mill, he is expert lathe operator; (3) A neat dresser, he washes up before changing clothes in locker room at end of his shift; (4) His day's work done, he walks out of mill with Monroe Turner, an old friend; (5) Relaxing

at home in the evening, Mr. Patterson is shown with Mrs. Patterson, his brother J. T. Patterson, of the Finishing Mill and sister-in-law Beatrice Patterson of Bleachery; (6) A faithful member and board member at First Christian Church, he is shown with pastor Dr. R. O. Respass.